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# Message Text

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44
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 AID-20 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NEA-10

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 EB-11 IGA-02 DRC-01 /192 W
---------- 016826
R 021402Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4919
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 2160

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, EEC, MT, UK
SUBJ: MINTOFF AND EC LOANS

REF: VALLETTA 2157

1. NOV 1 HOLIDAY BROUGHT NO FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS FOLLOWING MINTOFF'S BITTER ATTACK ON BRITISH FOR OBSTRUCTING POSSIBILITY OF SOFT LOANS FROM EC. WE DID CHECK WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR ON ACCURACY OF MINTOFF'S PUBLIC CLAIM THAT GOF WILL REVERSE ITS POSITION AND SUPPORT SOFT LOAN FOR MALTA WHEN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETS NEXT WEEK. FRENCH AMBASSADOR ADMITTED HE HAD BEEN CALLED IN AGAIN BY MINTOFF OCT 30, BUT SAID HE HAD CONVEYED NO SUCH INFORMATION TO PRIME MINISTER. SO FAR AS HE WAS AWARE FRENCH POSITION IS UNCHANGED. (UK HIGH COMMISSIONER TELLS US HE IS NOT ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED FRENCH
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WILL NOT GO ALONG WITH MINTOFF.)

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2. UK HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS RECONFIRMED TO US HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT DANISH AMBASSADOR TABOR WAS NOT REPEAT WAS NOT PREPARED TO RECOMMEND THAT DANES SUPPORT MALTESE POSITION.

3. BOTH UK HIGH COMMISSIONER AND FRENCH AMBASSADOR TELL US THAT ITALIAN AMBASSADOR MASSA-BERNUCCI, AFTER BEING SUMMONED BY MINTOFF SUNDAY, OCT 28 WAS THEN SENT OFF TO ROME BY MINTOFF TO SEEK GOI ASSISTANCE IN CINVINCING UK AND FRENCH OF THE ERROR OF THEIR WAYS. MASSA BERNUCCI HAS BEEN IN ROME ALL WEEK AND EXPECTED BACK IN MALTA THIS EVENING.

4. UK HIGH COMMISSIONER ALSO CLAIMS THAT MINTOFF IS BEING LESS THAN HONEST WHEN HE SPECIFICALLY ITES MALTA'S FAILURE TO SERVICE UK LOANS TO THE STERLING FLOAT-DEVALUATION OF LAST JUNE. MORETON SAID THAT INK WAS SCARCELY DRY ON BASE AGREEMENT BEFORE MINTOFF ASKED FOR RENEGOTIATION OF LOANS TO PROVIDE NO INTEREST OR CONCESSIONAL INTEREST RATE.

5. COMMENT: MORETON'S ASSERTION TENDS TO BE SUPPORTED BY INFORMATION GIVEN US BY HIS PREDECESSOR ON APRIL 7 LAST YEAR (VALLETTA 724), AS WELL AS BACKGROUND PROVIDED BY MORETON JUNE 26, 1972 (VALLETTA 1169) WHEN MINTOFF FIRST AIRED THIS SUBJECT IN PARLIAMENT.
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